

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1-6 and 10-18 have been withdrawn, and claims 19 and 20 have been added.

Regarding the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 7 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been thus amended.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Balolia in view of Chang or Lars. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in claim 7, Applicant's adjustable base includes a tubular leg extending from each of the opposing ends of each shoulder and having a single extended slot. Applicant's claimed "single extended slot" is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Balolia, Chang, or Lars references whether taken individually or in hypothetical combination.

Balolia discloses a mobile base for machinery. In use, once the width W1 and depth D1 are known, side members 42-48 are inserted into corner members 34-40 (column 6, lines 40-42). Bolts 50 are then inserted through holes 92 in bars 52 and 54 and threaded into the holes 82 in the side members 42, thus forming a rigid frame assembly 22 (column 6, lines 48-51).

Neither Lars nor Chang suggests a single extended slot. Though the Office Action states that "Lars or Chang clearly teaches that in order to allow the projection to be slidably adjustable, an extended slot is necessary," the Office Action fails to cite to any such clear teaching in Lars or Chang, and neither Lars nor Chang provides such a clear teaching.

Lars discloses a chassis having mutually meeting chassis members interconnected by connection and jointing members which are designed to be rigid approximately in the spatial plane of extent of the chassis, but which are yieldable in another direction (column 1, lines 54-62). Perforations 3, 4, and 5 are provided for mounting accessory equipment on the chassis (though clamp connections, snap connections, drilling and screwing,

or other suitable means are also proposed for such accessory mounting) (column 2, lines 58-64). To ensure that the chassis remains rigid in its own spatial plane of extent, use is made, at each corner region, of joining pieces 14 (column 3, lines 28-30). Each joining piece 14 is provided with projections 16, which fit into the perforations on the undersides of the chassis members 1 and 2 (column 3, lines 52-56). Accordingly, Lars fails to disclose or suggest a tubular leg having a single extended slot engaged by a projection of a dowel slidably received in the leg as recited in claim 7.

Chang discloses a mobile base for machines. Tube sections 11, 12 have a pair of opposing side walls which are formed with a plurality of spaced engaging through holes 111, 121. The through holes 111, 121 are rectangular in shape and have longer edges which are parallel to the longitudinal axis of the respective tube sections 11, 12 (column 2, lines 49-58). Locking bolts 40 extend through aligned through holes 111, 121, 21 of angled members 10 and tubular connectors 20 (column 3, lines 36-38). During assembly, through holes 21 of the tube connectors 20 are aligned with the through holes 111, 121 of the corresponding tube sections 11, 12, and the edges of the through holes 21 are preferably shorter than the longer edges of the through holes 111, 121 so as to facilitate alignment of the through holes 111, 121, 21 (column 3, lines 49-55). Adjustments in the size of the mobile base are conducted by loosening nuts 41 so as to remove the locking bolts 40 from the angled members 10 and the tubular connectors 20, and the angled members 10 are then pulled outwardly or pushed inwardly until the size of the mobile base corresponds with the size of the machine base (column 4, lines 3-12). Accordingly, Chang fails to disclose or suggest a tubular leg having a single extended slot engaged by a projection of a dowel slidably received in the leg as recited in claim 7.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even the hypothetical combination of Balolia with Lars or Chang fails to disclose a tubular leg having a single extended slot engaged by a projection of a dowel slideably received in the leg.

Additionally, the Office Action fails to cite to any reasonable suggestion or motivation in the prior art to supplement or modify the holes 82 and 92 taught by Balolia to create a rigid frame assembly 22 by adding the perforations 3, 4, and 5 used by Lars to mount accessory equipment or corner joining pieces 14 or the through holes 111, 121 used by Chang to facilitate alignment of through holes 111, 121, 21. Further, and as mentioned previously, even the hypothetical combination of the cited references proposed by the Office Action would

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not result in a tubular leg having a single extended slot engaged by a projection of a dowel slidably received in the leg as recited in claim 7.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 and dependent claim 8 based on Balolia in view of Chang or Lars is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in form for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua L. Cohen, Reg. No. 38,040
Attorney for Applicant

JLC/ap

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☒ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

☐ P.O. Box 1596
Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 778-2500

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July 11, 2005
Joshua L. Cohen